and made tributary their territory beyond the Rhine. The real importance of the battle of Strassburg lies in the fact that it was the occasion for the conversion of CLOVIS. His wife CLOTILDA, was a Burgundian princess, but, unlike most of her nation, she was a devout catholic. In a crisis in the battle, CLOVIS had vowed to serve the God of CLOTILDA if He would grant victory. In consequence, the king and 3000 of his warriors were baptized immediately afterward.

Clovis was influenced, no doubt, by them

c 500 THE FRANKS

The early conquests of the Franks in North Gaul have been referred to. Their real advance began a little before the year 500, — almost at the time of the rise of the East Goths. This was some 80 yrs later than the making of the Vandal, Burgundian, and Visigothic kingdoms, and as much earlier than the Lombard kingdom. To the Franks fell the work of consolidating the Teutonic states into a mighty empire. Their final success was due, in the main, to two causes.

a. they did not migrate to distant lands, but only expanded from their original home. Their state, therefore, kept a larger unmixed Teutonic element, while the other conquering nations lost themselves in the Roman populations among whom they settled.

b. When they adopted Christianity, it was the orthodox form instead of Arianism. This gained them support from the Romanized populations in their wars with the other Teutons.

Until nearly 500, the Franks were pagans. Nor were they a nation; they were split into petty divisions without a common king. The founder of their greatness was CLOVIS (CLODOWIG, LOUIS). In 481, at the age of 15, he became king of a petty tribe near the mouth of the Rhine. In 486, he attacked the Roman possessions in North Gaul, and after a victory at SOISSONS, added them to his kingdom. Ten years later (496 age 25) he conquered the ALEMANNI, who had invaded Gaul, in a great battle near STRASSBURG.

power in Europe. In the 6th and 7th centuries its preeminence was even more marked. Bothic Spain was weakened by quarrels between Arian and Catholic; Italy was torn to shreds; Britain was in chaos; non-Frankish Germany was filled with savage, unorganized tribes. The only real rivals of the Frankish states were the Greek Empire and a new MOHAMMEDAN power which was just rising in Arabia and which was soon to contest Europe with both Greek and Frank.

political insight. In the coming struggles with the Arian Goths and Burgundians, it was to be of immense advantage to have the subject Roman population on his side, as an orthodox sovereign, against their own hated heretic rulers. The conversion was a chief agency, therefore, in building up the great Frankish state.

His conversion furnished Clovis with a pretext for new advances, declaring it intolerable that those "Arian dogs" should possess the fairest provinces of Gaul. He attacked both Burgundians and Visigoths,

during the latter for the most part beyond the PYRENEES. Then, by a horrible series of bloody treacheries during the remainder of his 30 years' reign, he got rid of the kings of the other tribes of the Franks and consolidated that whole people under his sole rule. "Thus", says the pious chronicler, Gregory of Tours, "did God daily deliver the enemies of Clovis into his hand, because he walked His face with an upright heart." The sons of CLOVIS completed the subjugation of BURGUNDY, and added BAVARIA & THURINGIA, as tributaries, to the Frankish state.

THE LAST 2 DISTRICTS LAY ON THE GERMAN SIDE OF THE RHINE, WELL BEYOND THE BORDERS OF THE OLD ROMAN WORLD.

In 50 years, mainly through the cool intellect and ferocious energy of one brutal savage, a little Teutonic tribe had grown into the great FRANKISH State. That state included nearly the whole of modern France, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Germany almost to the Elbe (except for the lands of the heathen Saxons toward the mouth of the Elbe.

Such a territory today would make the greatest

lofty enthusiasm, and noble service. A body of enthusiasts, uniting for mutual religious aid, would raise a few rude buildings in a pestilential marsh or in a wilderness. Gradually their numbers grew; the marsh was drained, or the desert became a garden through their toil; the first plain structures gave way to massive and stately towers; lords willingly gave lands; fugitives slaves & serfs settled them; perhaps villages or towns sprang up upon them, under the rule of the abbot.

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c500 – 567 – 600 + MONASTICISM

The Eastern Church gave rise early to a class of hermits, who strove each to save his own soul by tormenting his body and by secluding himself from the world. The persecutions in the 3rd century augmented the members of these fugitives from society, until the Egyptian and Syrian deserts swarmed with tens of thousands of them. In some cases they came to unite with small bodies with common rules of life. In the latter part of the 4th century this idea of religious communities was transplanted

to the West, and the long anarchy following the invasions gave peculiar inducements to such a life.

Thus arose monasticism, one of the most powerful medieval institutions. The fundamental causes were: (1) the longing for a life of quiet religious devotion, and (2) the conditions which made quiet living impossible except through some such withdrawal from society.

European monasticism differed widely from its model in the East. The monks in the West did believe that holy living lay, in part, in crushing natural instincts and affections; but they never imitated the excesses of the hermits of the East. Even within their quiet walls, they wisely sought escape from temptation, not in idleness, but in active and incessant work. Their very motto was, "To work is to pray." The old proverb of Satan and idle hands strikes a keynote in monasticism.

The growth of many a rich monastery was a romantic story of humble beginnings,

of laymen; but gradually the monks became the most zealous of missionaries and the most devoted of preachers. As they took up the duties of the clergy, there arose a long struggle between them and the bishops. The bishops desired to exercise authority over them as over other lower clergy; the monks insisted upon independence under their own abbots, and finally won it by grants from the popes. Because subject to rule, the monks became known as regular clergy, while the ordinary clergy were styled secular ("belonging to the world").

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(2)

Such was the growth of hundreds of early communities. Similar institutions for women afforded a much-needed refuge for great numbers of that sex in that troublesome age. Finally the various communities became united in great brotherhoods. In particular, St. BENEDICT, in the 6th century, published and preached rules for monastic life that were widely adopted. Two hundred yrs later, nearly all monks in Western Europe were

Benedictines, the order at its height is said to have counted over 40,000 monasteries.

Each Benedictine took the three vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. (1) He renounced all wealth for himself (though the monastery might become wealthy). (2) He renounced marriage. (3) He renounced his own will in all things, in favor of that of his superior in the monastery, the abbot or prior. To all this was added the obligation of work.

During the Middle Ages, the monks were the most skillful and industrious tillers of the soil. They taught neighboring youth in their schools. They lovingly copied and illustrated manuscripts, and so preserved whatever learning was saved at the time in the West. They themselves produced whatever new literature Europe had for some centuries. In particular, they cared for the poor and suffering. For many centuries of disorder and violence the monasteries were to Western Europe the only almshouses, inns, asylums, hospitals, and schools.

At first, a monastery was a religious association

500

When the Franks in 500 attacked the Burgundians – quarrels within the royal clan offered an opportunity to meddle in Burgundian affairs – Alaric II supported the legitimate royal party.

500? – 565

BELISARIUS, Byzantine General

Probably the greatest Byzantine General. He was born in Balkans of unknown ethnic origin. After serving as one of Emperor Justinian's personal bodyguards, he became governor of Mesopotamia in the eastern provinces (527–529). Appointed master of soldiers in the Orient (529–531), he led Byzantine forces unsuccessfully against the Persians in frustrating actions. He crushed the NIKA REVOLT at Constantinople against

Justinian in 532. He commanded the expeditionary force that reconquered North Africa from the VANDALS (whose kingdom he annihilated) from 533 to 534 and reoccupied Sicily in 535.

He was delaying the reconquest of Italy from the Ostrogoths when he came under suspicion and was recalled to Constantinople. He brought the captured Ostrogoth king with him. He was then sent to fight Persians (540-541), and later returned to Italy (544-549) against the Ostrogoths & their resourceful king TOTILA. It & recovered much of Italy. Another recall to Constantinople. He defended it against the Huns. He seldom had more than [illegible] men under his command.

500 AD

The sea reached 3 feet above today's level

c500 AD

the Saxons divided the day into 4 periods which they called tides and they made sun dials to show time.

500

1912Dates J-BK

Franks

CHLODWIG vanquished the Burgundians at DIJON and made them tributary

500

1912Dates. J-BK

Greek School of painting.

AD 57

Life expectancy in Britain
Men 73 years
Women 77 years.

500 A. D.

Monumental water-clock
at Gaza

ADS 00

moldboard plow

AD 500

ABACUS - Eurasia, beads on wires
replacing beads on a board.

AD500

Arithmetic was more durable than empires, and the abacus was invented in Eurasia around AD500. Modern numerals are called "Arabic" because of Islam's role in their dissemination. In fact, the system of numbering traces back to India, and it was completed in southeastern Asia, where a crucial missing element, the symbol for zero first appeared

AD 683

AD 500

While the Chinese kept returning to empire, the European preferred a quarrelsome plurality of languages and cultures. A device that aided decentralization appeared among the German around AD 500; the moldboard plow, which turned over the soil and greatly enlarged the areas that could be cultivated in northern Europe.

the ABACUS was developed

500 A.D. 600 AD.

TEUTONIC LAW

1st Unwritten custom. Soon began to put parts of their law in the form of written law

a) LAW was PERSONAL

b) Proof consisted of an appeal to God to show the Right.

Trial by ordeal.

Trial by Combat

c) offenses were atoned for by money payment

The Franks fail to work to consolidate the Teutonic states into a mighty empire

a. They did not migrate to distant lands but only expanded from their original home.

b. When they adopted Christianity it was the orthodox form of

Ariarizon

500AD

Population of World was 193.4 million

43.4 million were Christians

500

Many big landlords have private military forces and prisons

500 AD

CODEX BEZAE

New Testament in Greek & Latin

500–750 MEROVINGIANS

The family of Clovis is known, from his grandfather MEROVIG, as MEROVINGIAN. It kept the throne for two centuries after Clovis' death. In the first half of the period, the rulers were commonly men of ruthless energy. In the second half they became phantom kings, and all real authority was exercised by great nobles, who finally replaced the MEROVINGIANS with a new royal line.

The 200 yrs make a dismal story of greed

500 - 700 AD

Early Old English
Conversion of Anglo-Saxons.
Northumbrian Culture.
Earliest surviving literature
Borrowings from Latin and occasionally Celtic. Increased diversity of dialects.
Adoption of alphabet.

500AD

monumental water-clock
at GAZA

500AD

Danes from Jutland & Scotland
& to Kent
Saxons to north & central
England

c 500

CELTS

St. Patrick goes to Ireland as missionary

500 A.D.

The max range for an archer is 450 meters (492 yds)

The longest recorded range for a catapult firing an arrow of ordinary size (70 cm) was 640 meters (=700 yds) with considerable accuracy.